

Lab's new technology to put targets in "crosshairs"

by *Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate recently awarded a \$2,926,800 contract to Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) of San Diego, Calif., for a study of technology to track and target moving ground targets.

The three-year contract is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va., and supports its Affordable Moving Surface Target Engagement (AMSTE) Program.

"SAIC will investigate, from a systems engineering perspective, novel and unique ways of collecting ground moving target indication (GMTI) data and ways it may be used for surveillance and/or precision targeting purposes," said Stephen Scott, program manager in the directorate's Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division. "Engi-

neers will analyze technology, being developed by various contractors under the AMSTE program, to identify the most promising methods of processing and communicating GMTI information.

"The program's ultimate goal is to obtain this data and make it available in a timely manner to allow commanders to have precision surveillance and targeting capabilities on moving targets," Scott said.

The AMSTE program is a DARPA initiative to investigate and develop technologies to affordably engage moving surface targets such as tanks, tactical ballistic missile transporters and small boats. It seeks technologies to tightly network GMTI sensors to provide fire-control-quality tracks of sufficient accuracy to direct inexpensive munitions against moving surface targets. @